Past Pursuits

A Newsletter of the Special Collections Division Akron-Summit County Public Library

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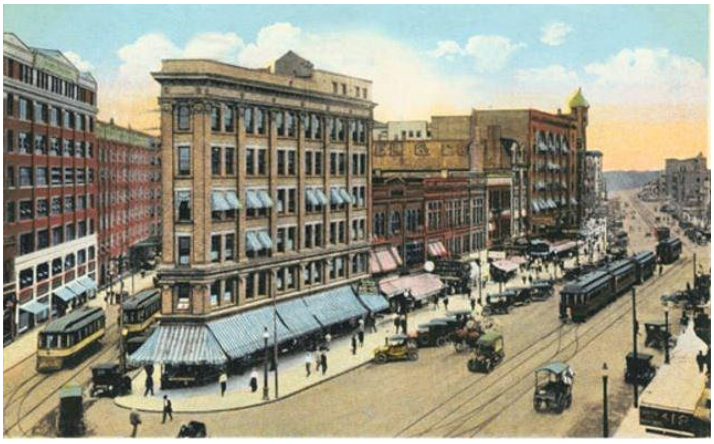

In the early twentieth century, Akron's downtown was punctuated by the intersection of Main and Howard Streets with the prominent Flatiron Building filling its corner. Looking North from Flatiron Building, Akron, Ohio, *postcard dated April 24, 1917. From the Ruth Wright Clinefelter Postcard Collection, Summit Memory.*

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Akron and Summit County at the Beginning of World War I

by Jane Gramlich, Librarian

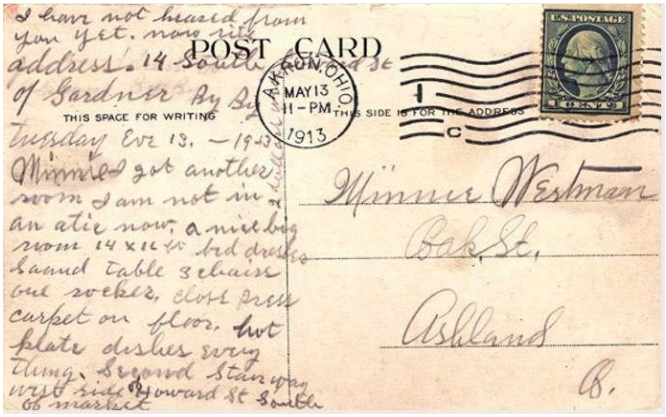
On April 6, 2017, the U.S. observes the beginning of its entry into a global conflict whose outcome has reverberated down through the years and affects us still today. The declaration of war against Germany capped a remarkable era of social and economic change that was strongly felt in Akron and Summit County. Our resources in Special Collections hold valuable glimpses of that time—city directories, maps, censuses, newspapers, books, and archival documents combine to form a shifting kaleidoscope of local history. With each snippet and snapshot comes a new understanding of the World War I era and those who lived in it.

Picture the landscape of 1917, and you'll see a juxtaposition of an agrarian past giving way to an industrial future heavily concentrated on transportation. For some time, large farms in Summit County's outlying areas had been gradually dwindling to smaller "truck farming" enterprises. Farms for sale were commonly seen in classified ads. Many of these emphasized the farm's proximity to paved roads and streetcars that clanged and rumbled their way from Cuyahoga Falls, Bettes Corners, and Silver Lake into and all around Akron.

The city's footprint didn't quite stretch to the boundaries we know today. Ellet was better known as "Springfield Center," and along with Kenmore, it was a separate community not yet annexed to Akron. A 1915 plat map shows the city's northwestern boundary close to present-day Wallhaven, and the shopping complex we know as Fairlawn Town Center was "Suburban Acres," a residential development "only ten minutes by motor car over good macadam road." With the advent of automobiles, and four years after the flood of 1913 decimated the canals, improvements in transportation were a high priority. In 1917, just in time for its centennial celebration, Twinsburg installed two dozen street lights and completed the "Akron-Cleveland Pavement." Heading to Bedford and beyond, this road seems to have been

the predecessor to State Route 14. According to newspaper accounts of the time, it was "the longest stretch of continuous pavement in Ohio."

These developments were a direct effect of the industries beginning to dominate Summit County's manufacturing hub. City directories clearly show the transition. Production of cereal and pottery, Akron's strong suits decades earlier, was noticeably limited. But tire and rubber companies large and small along with supporting businesses offering tools, equipment and repair fill directory pages. While business listings in 1910 devoted less than a page to firms under the "automobile" heading, by 1917, there were over three pages. "Rubber City" was a moniker already in place by World War I. The earliest known appearance in the *Akron Beacon Journal* was in September 1899, and it caught on quickly and grew in popularity over the next two decades as people flocked to the city. The ensuing housing crisis during those years has been common theme in Akron's published histories. One way to understand the impact on the population is to look at the U.S. census records, an excellent source for calculating statistical estimates on local residents. They reveal that in 1910, about 12% of Akron's population was enumerated as boarders, roomers, or lodgers. By 1920, nearly 28% fit that description.

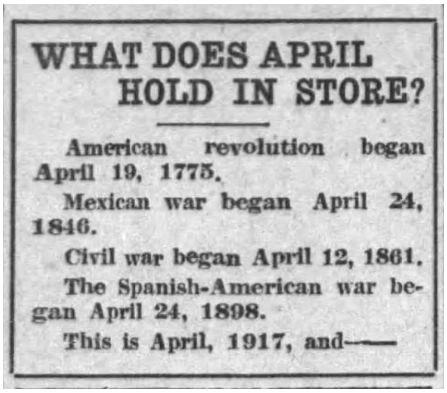


Postcard sent to Minnie Wertman, dated May 13, 1913, unknown author. From the Ruth Wright Clinefelter Postcard Collection, Summit Memory.

Where did these hard-working transplants find a place to live, and what were their new lives like? Correspondence sent to family and friends can contain fascinating nuggets of insight. Three postcards from the Ruth Wright Clinefelter Postcard Collection are good examples. In 1913, one writer excitedly reported, "Minnie I got another room I am not in an at[t]ic now. A nice big room 14x16: bed, dresser, round table, 3 chairs, one rocker, [clothes] press, carpet on floor, hot plate, dishes, every thing." A resident at the YMCA in 1916 wrote, "This is the place I hold out. Have a fine room…like my job fine." In 1917, a Goodyear Tire & Rubber employee sent a postcard depicting the company's facility to a friend, encouraging him to make the move to Akron. "On the other side is a picture of the plant for which I work…they employ 19,000 people. When are you coming up[?] There are some fine opportunities up here."

Opportunities abounded not just for work, but for increased leisure and entertainment activities. Vaudeville shows at the Colonial Theatre were a staple, and the Empress Theatre hawked silent films like *A Tale of Two Cities*, "a Historical Super De Luxe Photodrama Replete With Great Dramatic Moments." Local bowling leagues and basketball and soccer teams recruited energetic young residents. We may think home and garden shows are a recent phenomenon, but we should think again. The "Akron Real Estate and Building Show" was held at East Market Gardens, a local "amusement pavilion," the first week of April 1917. The *Akron Evening Times* covered announcements of events further out in Summit County's small towns, villages and townships. In February 1917, several residents of Norton Center were planning to go to Wadsworth to hear a lecture by Montraville Wood, an associate of Thomas Edison and "an entertaining demonstrator of modern scientific discoveries." Among other diversions were church bazaars and ice cream festivals, temperance meetings, and local theatrical performances such as a comedy presented by the Stow Players at the "center Bath" town hall in early April.

Akron Evening Times, *March 29, 1917.*



WHAT DOES APRIL HOLD IN STORE?

American revolution began April 19, 1775.

Mexican war began April 24, 1846.

Civil war began April 12, 1861.

The Spanish-American war began April 24, 1898.

This is April, 1917, and——

Akron Beacon Journal, *April 2, 1917.*

The county was better connected and the city was expanding. But despite brisk economic growth working out its effects on local citizens, the political mood in the first few months of 1917 was somber and expectant. When war was finally declared, the county began to mobilize. Officials planned to turn voting booths into draft registration centers and University of Akron students decided to form a Red Cross unit. Residents pledged to cultivate gardens or offer vacant lots for others to plant theirs. Even as everyday life went on, the next nineteen months held momentous events for Summit County as it navigated the war effort. Through our resources, publications, and programs, and in collaboration with other local history organizations, Special Collections will continue to interpret and commemorate those events—the history made here a century ago.

World War I Commemorative Events, April-May

Akron and Summit County's Official Commemoration of U.S. Entry into World War I
Monday, April 3, 11:00 am
Charles Goodyear Park, 174 S. High St.
Sponsored by Summit County Historical Society
Speakers: Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro, Akron Mayor Dan Horrigan, State Senator Frank LaRose
Music: Brass ensemble
Presentation of colors: Summit County veterans

Exhibit: "Akron and Summit County Enter World War I"
Monday, April 3
Summit County Courthouse, 209 S. High St.
Summit County Historical Society opens its exhibit located in the courthouse main lobby.

History Hike
Tuesday, April 18, 11:30 am-1pm
Polsky Building, 225 S. Main St.
Downtown walking tour highlighting WWI veterans. Meet in the lobby of the Polsky Building off High Street. Free and open to the public. Sponsored by Summit County Historical Society and Summit Metro Parks.

Vintage Days
Sunday, May 21, noon-4pm
Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens, 714 N. Portage Path
Commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Great War at Vintage Days. Discover more about Akron's role at the time, view artifacts and listen to stories from business associates of the Seiberling family about life at the time at the Stan Hywet estate.

Mind, Body & Sole
Monday, May 29
Akron-Summit County Public Library, 60 S. High St.
This summer reading/exercise program begins at Main Library and all branches. Guide available for World War I-themed resources and activities.

Be sure to see *Summit County and the Great War*, a collaborative website created by Summit County's local historical organizations, for event schedules and additional resources.

SCOUTS TO FARM 65-ACRE TRACT

Akron Boy Scouts may obtain 65 acres of land, within five minutes' walk from a car line, on which to raise food for the United States' needs during the war, it was announced Thursday.

Negotiations for the use of the plot this summer are being conducted by Joseph Taylor, scout executive, and the owner of the land, and will be reported to the scout council a at meeting in the Akron Automobile club rooms at 7:30 p. m. Thursday.

By direction of the national council of the Boy Scouts, every scout in Akron and in every part of the country is to raise enough food during the war to feed one soldier. All scout organizations are to co-operate with the department of agriculture and the council of defense, the Red Cross society, the army and navy.

Akron Evening Times, *April 19, 1917.*

Mary Plazo, Special Collections Division Manager

by Iris Bolar, Librarian

The Special Collections staff congratulates Mary Plazo on her promotion to Division Manager, following the retirement of Judy James. A native of Akron and graduate of Garfield High School, Mary received her bachelor's degree in English Literature from the University of Akron and her master's degree in Library and Information Science from Kent State University. In 2001, Mary joined the newly formed Special Collections Division as its first librarian under the leadership of Judy James. She attended the Modern Archives Institute at the National Archives in Washington, DC for additional training in archival practices.

In her work as a Special Collections librarian, Mary has been very active working with local historical organizations. In 2016, she was elected to the board of the Cascade Locks Park Association and has worked with its archives committee since 2003. Mary is a member of the Summit County Historical Society and serves within the Subject and Special Collections Division of the Ohio Library Council.

Outside of her library activities, Mary shares the love for music that has been passed down in her family. She has played in local rock and folk bands since 1994. Her father played in Howard Street jazz clubs, her mother was a classical pianist, and older brothers played in folk and jazz venues around Northeast Ohio.

Mary is only the second manager of Special Collections and says that though she could never fill the shoes of her predecessor, she hopes "to honor her legacy by continuing to serve our partners and public with respect and integrity." Congratulations, Mary!

Reminder: All-Day Genealogy Program April 1

Are you trying to break down a brick wall? Church records or court records may be just what you need. It's not too late to register for *Church and State: Genealogy Research in Religious and Government Records*, featuring Cleveland-area genealogists Sunny McClellan Morton and Chris Staats, on Saturday, April 1, 9:30 am-4 pm in the Main Library Auditorium. To register, contact the Special Collections Division at 330-643-9030 or speccollections@akronlibrary.org.

Sunny and Chris will present the following lectures:

Why We Care Where Grandma Went to Church

They Once Were Lost but Now Are Found: Using U.S. Church Records to Solve Genealogical Mysteries

Order in the Court! A Brief History of Ohio Courts and the Records They Created

Buried Treasure: Finding Your Ancestors in Ohio's Local Government Records Collection

The program is free and open to the public, and parking is free in the High-Market Parking Deck. For more information, please see the program flyer on the Classes & Events page of the Special Collections website.

Art Arfons about 1980. Photograph by Ott Gangl.

Getting to Know...Art Arfons

by Mary Plazo, Division Manager

Arthur Eugene Arfons, known as "Art," was born in Akron in 1926 to father Tom Arfons, who immigrated from Greece, and mother Bessie, who was half Cherokee Indian. Art's father Americanized the name from Arfanos. Tom loved mechanics and machines and owned and operated Arfons Feed Mill and Hardware in Summit County.

Art grew up in a farmhouse on Pickle Road near the family business with older sister Lou and two older half-brothers, Walt and Dale. Raised by his parents to be hardworking and self-reliant, Art taught himself how to disassemble and reassemble old diesel engines at the mill by age 11. Not long after, he began working on old cars and building racers to enter Soap Box Derby competitions in the late 1930s.

By the 1940s, Art was a restless teenager with a strong interest in airplanes but not much interest in school. Reluctantly signing his enlistment papers, Tom Arfons allowed his son Art to follow Walt into the U.S. Navy, where he became a mechanic. He saw his first action quickly in 1945, shuttling troops and supplies to Okinawa. After serving in the Navy for three years, he returned home safely, went back to work for his father's business, and started his own family.

Art and his brothers continued their interest in mechanics and automobiles, enjoying the challenge of scrounging junkyard parts and piecing together anything they could put on wheels just for fun. After seeing their first drag race in 1952, they were fascinated by the screaming engines and heavy horsepower and decided to try it on their own. They started designing speedy hot rods from scrap parts and old airplane engines, racing them in competitions on local race tracks. Their first racers were built in back yards and painted with green John Deere tractor paint, giving them the name *Green Monster*. Art would use this name for every kind of hot rod he built for the rest of his life.

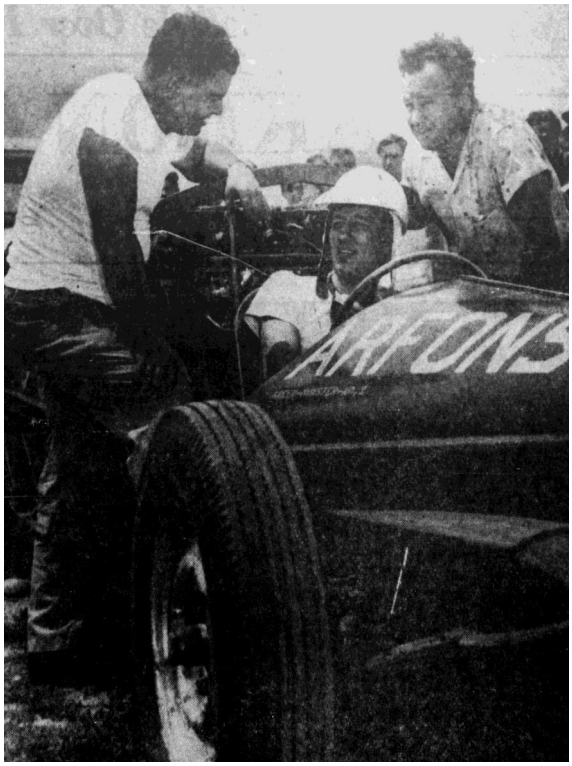
The earliest hot rods the brothers built went through many trials and errors of engine combinations and body adjustments. The *Green Monster* they raced in 1952 was built for speeds of up to 270 mph, but the tires started smoking at 150 mph, so they had to find specially built race car tires instead of the usual stock car tires. In 1956, Art won the World Series of Drag Racing with his *Green Monster No. 6*, becoming the first driver to break 150 mph in the quarter mile. In 1957 at Oklahoma City, he set a national speed record at 152.24 mph in his twelve-cylinder Rolls-Royce *Green Monster* powered by an aircraft engine.

Eventually, as the milling industry and small farms declined, the Arfons brothers made more money from their cars and racing than they did from the family mill business. Tom Arfons died in 1950. By 1962, Art and Walt were earning their sole income from cars and competitive racing and decided it was time to shut down the family mill. Due to various personal problems, Art and Walt stopped building cars together. They began to race competitively against each other and didn't speak to each other for many years. Unfortunately, this spirit of competition was very fierce in Art, and Walt would find himself in his brother's shadow more often than not.

Art started building a series of cars with jet engines in the early 1960s, giving them the new name *Green Monster Cyclops*. Some speed experts didn't think these cars were legitimate record-breakers because they were designed with unconventional engines. Art argued that a separate category should be created for jet cars because it was the only way a car could ever reach record-breaking speeds. In 1964, Art achieved this goal. He designed *Green Monster No. 17* with the engine from a J-79 jet, the largest and fastest jet engine he had ever

used, pulling 17,000 lbs. of horsepower. At Bonneville Salt Flats, Utah, travelling faster than any man before him in a land-bound vehicle, he broke the land speed record at 434.02 mph. He went on to set the land speed record two more times between 1964 and 1965. In 1966, after rival Craig Breedlove surpassed him, he attempted the record again and miraculously survived a wreck at over 600 mph. The two men would pass the record between them six times in two years.

Art returned to drag racing in 1971 and made the record for the fastest quarter mile at 294.68 mph in 5.5 seconds. One of the most tragic stories of his racing career was in 1972 in Dallas, Texas. He survived yet another terrifying crash, but this time two spectators and a radio reporter were killed. In an interview with the *Akron Beacon Journal* after the crash, he said, "I lost all interest in drag racing. I had to walk away from it. I couldn't bring myself to go back." He opened up his own business rebuilding and tuning up engines for a while, but later admitted that "I just couldn't put up with the people." Even after having triple bypass surgery in 1979, he couldn't quit. He started designing hot rod tractors which weren't as dangerous or nearly as fast as the jet cars he was used to building, and won competitions at several Ohio county fairs. With his incomparable motor expertise, he went on to win Grand National Pulls with victories in several different truck and tractor divisions.



Dale, Walt, and Art Arfons. Akron Beacon Journal, *June 28, 1954.*

Still motivated by his triumphs of the 1960s, he continued to work on perfecting his *Green Monster*. He returned to Utah in 1989 with *Green Monster No. 27*. His car went airborne at 350 mph, but once more he miraculously survived the crash. He returned to the Salt Flats only a few more times, the last time in 1991. Ultimately, he realized that at his age and in his weakened condition, he could no longer maintain the stamina to continue attempts at breaking the land speed record.

Akron Beacon Journal, *March 22, 1972.*

Art returned to his tractor pulls, keeping the *Green Monster* name for all of the hot rods he built. His genius in designing engines for tractor pull competitions gave him worldwide acclaim and made him a legend in his field. He held the Unlimited Drag Racing Record, and was inducted into the Motor Sports Hall of Fame of America, the International Drag Racing Hall of Fame, the International Motor Sports Hall of Fame, the National Tractor Puller Association Hall of Fame, and the Summit County Sports Hall of Fame.

Art Arfons died December 3, 2007 at age 81. Many people found it ironic that Evel Knievel also died the same week. A few *Green Monster* cars survive, and a couple of them have been shown by collector Bob Jones in his warehouse of classic vehicles on South Broadway Street in Akron. As we look back at all the years of ingenuity and creativity that he brought to motor vehicles, it's clear that Art Arfons himself was "built for speed."

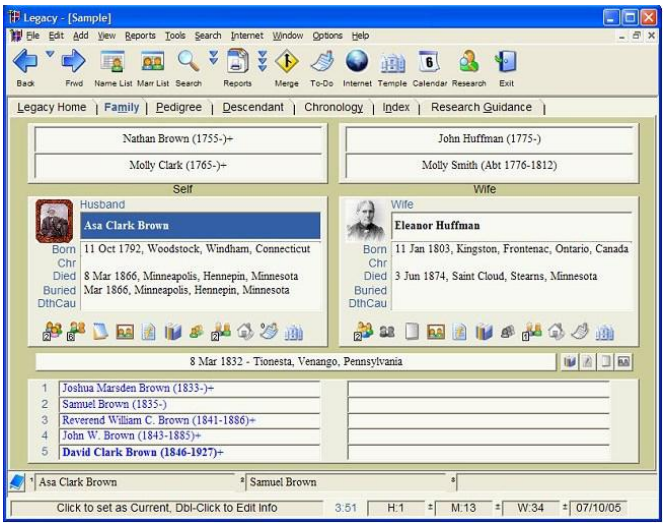
Genealogy Software

by Cheri Goldner, Librarian

If you're just getting started with genealogy software, take a look at reviews online and in genealogy magazines to get a sense of how it works. Try free downloads from Legacy Family Tree or RootsMagic to learn and practice.

It doesn't take long in genealogy research to accumulate a large number of documents, and it's easy to become overwhelmed by all of the facts they contain. That's why many researchers use genealogy software to help organize, navigate and publish the information they collect.

There are numerous software options available, and internet searches return thousands of reviews and comparisons. One of the most recent is Top Ten Reviews' "The Best Genealogy Software of 2017" published in November 2016. Top Ten Reviews rated programs in the following areas: overall, web capabilities, creating connections, charting capabilities, citation and organization, and help and support. All ten of the programs reviewed follow a pedigree format for entering data, can generate charts and reports, and allow for the importing and exporting of GEDCOM files, the standard genealogy file format. The top performers in the review were Legacy Family Tree, Family Historian, and Family Tree Maker.

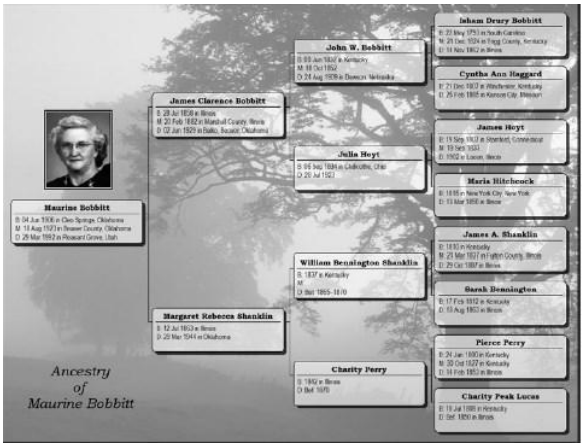

Legacy - [Sample]
Legacy Home | Family | Pedigree | Descendant | Chronology | Index | Research Guidance
Nathan Brown (1755-)+
Molly Clark (1765-)+
Self
John Huffman (1775-)
Molly Smith (Abt 1776-1812)
Wife
Husband
Asa Clark Brown
Born 11 Oct 1792, Woodstock, Windham, Connecticut
Died 8 Mar 1866, Minneapolis, Hennepin, Minnesota
Buried Mar 1866, Minneapolis, Hennepin, Minnesota
Wife
Eleanor Huffman
Born 11 Jan 1803, Kingston, Frontenac, Ontario, Canada
Died 3 Jun 1874, Saint Cloud, Stearns, Minnesota
8 Mar 1832 - Tionesta, Venango, Pennsylvania
1 Joshua Marsden Brown (1833-)+
2 Samuel Brown (1835-)
3 Reverend William C. Brown (1841-1886)+
4 John W. Brown (1843-1885)+
5 David Clark Brown (1846-1927)+
Asa Clark Brown
Samuel Brown
Click to set as Current, Dbl-Click to Edit Info
07/10/05

Family View, as seen on Legacy Family Tree, allows a snapshot view of three generations at a glance from grandparents to parents to grandchildren.

Gold Award winner Legacy Family Tree offers a free Standard Edition download and a Deluxe Edition for either $29.95 (download only) or $39.95 (CD and book). The Legacy website includes a guided tour of the main features of Legacy Family Tree 8.0, a "what's new" video, a few free training videos (with others for purchase), and more than 30 free webinars on the software. Like most of the programs reviewed, Legacy connects to Ancestry.com. Although it doesn't automatically sync, Legacy users can add new information from Ancestry using an in-app browser, or import a GEDCOM file from a family tree they've created on Ancestry. Unlike the Silver and Bronze winners, Legacy is also FamilySearch certified, which means users can import information from that site as well. While most of the ten programs reviewed "connect" to FamilySearch and allow the searching of that site, a program must be "FamilySearch certified" in order to import FamilySearch data.

Top Ten Reviews' Silver Award winner is Family Historian, a program designed and written by U.K.-based Calico Pie Limited. A free trial is offered, but after 30 days, users must purchase the software for either $46.50 (download) or $49.95 (CD, from Amazon in the U.S.). The company's site provides a detailed webpage and six-minute video tour on "What's New in Version 6" and video tutorials.

Previously sold by Ancestry, Bronze Award winner Family Tree Maker is now available from The Software MacKiev Company for $79.95 via download, with an optional CD or USB drive costing more. The support center includes a number of documents about using the software that will also be helpful to those considering its purchase. Family Tree Maker does not support in-program searches of FamilySearch, but it does allow users to designate when it is a source of information and cite it within the program.



Pedigree view, as seen here on Family Tree Maker, allows a view of the ancestors of one person.

While it's a bit further down the list in fifth place, RootsMagic is another program to note because it too offers a free version, RootsMagic 7 Essentials. Essentials has many of the core features of RootsMagic 7, which costs $29.95. It connects to Ancestry and is FamilySearch certified, so it can import data from either site. The support page offers links to numerous resources, including free webinars, shorter RootsMagic TV videos on individual topics, Magic Guides (downloadable "how-to" handouts covering a single topic with illustrations and tips), and a variety of user groups.

The other programs covered in Top Ten Reviews' report were Ancestral Quest, Heredis, MyHeritage's Family Tree Builder (free), Family Tree Heritage, Brother's Keeper (free trial version) and Win Family.

The Portage Trail: A Lost 1915 Film About Akron

by Jane Gramlich, Librarian

Special Collections recently received a question about a local 1915 silent film titled *The Portage Trail, 1785-1915.* Made by the Akron Chamber of Commerce, the film was meant to promote the city both to its own residents and to a larger audience of potential residents. It featured area scenes with over 40 local people portraying various roles in a fictional storyline. Not surprisingly, some of the roles were played by those with ties to the Chamber of Commerce. These included Chamber president George D. Bates, as well as leading lady Miriam Good, daughter of J. Edward Good, former Chamber president. Her performance was judged "exceptionally good work," partly due to her "previous training" in school plays and Tuesday Musical Club entertainments.

The four-reel photoplay premiered in Akron the week of September 14, 1915 at the Grand Theatre. Special showings were held for children at the Children's Home and Mary Day Nursery, as well as for residents at the Sumner Home for the Aged. After its Akron engagement, the film was supposed to have been shown in 180 locations throughout Ohio and in seven other states including New York, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Indiana. So far, however, we've found no confirmation of this.

THE GREAT BIG
Akron
Movie Show
See yourself, your city and your friends in a wonderful reel of pictures. Something of interest to everybody in Summit County.
"The Portage Trail, 1785-1915"
See
That Jolly Cuyahoga Falls Church Social
The Great Rubber Factory Scenes
The Exciting Hold-up Scene
The Thrilling Fire Scene
The Impressive Wedding Scene
The Auto Parade
The Children's Pageant
The Water Works Opening
All Akron Through a Telescope
A Lot of Other Highly Interesting and Beautiful Reproductions, all set in a Romantic Story.
GRAND THEATRE
10c To Everybody ANY SEAT IN THE HOUSE 10c
Continuous Performance of This Great Four-Reel Show, Beginning
Tuesday, Sept. 14th, and Continuing Daily From 12 to 10 P. M. to Monday, Sept. 20th, Inclusive
Under auspices of Akron Chamber of Commerce.

Akron Times, *September 13, 1915.*

AKRON SOCIETY
CHEERS ITSELF
IN BIG MOVIE

Akron Beacon Journal, *September 14, 1915.*

The existence of this film is news to us. Though we'd be thrilled to have a copy for our collections, we know of none available. What might have happened to it? *The Portage Trail* is a good example of the mysterious fate of many unique or rare historical sources. After its initial impact, the film was likely forgotten and the reels relegated to the dustbins of history. If it exists today, it's possible that it has deteriorated too much be of any use. Still, if anyone can find it, please let us know.

The Manchester Inn, an early tavern in Franklin Township, was destroyed in 1960. Akron Times-Press*, July 6, 1925.*

200 Years of Franklin Township

by Barbara Leden, Public Service Assistant

One of the area's earliest communities will be turning 200 years old in 2017. Franklin Township, located in the southwest corner of Summit County, had its humble beginnings in Stark County with the election of its first officers in April 1817. The township became part of Summit County in 1840. The area started out as a farming community with abundant crops of peaches and cranberries. According to *Illustrated Summit County, Ohio*, an 1891 atlas, the first settler was Christopher Johnson. Nicknamed "Yankee," he arrived in 1814. The majority of the early settlers were Pennsylvania Dutch, however, and Franklin Township along with its neighbor Green Township were once known as "Dutchdom."

In the mid-1800s, it was discovered that the area was rich in coal, and mining became a booming business. By 1891, between fifteen and twenty mines exported over 100,000 tons annually. Another historic claim is the existence of a portion of the Underground Railroad, which went through the township with a stopping point at a building near Manchester and West Nimisila Roads.

In 1925, the Akron *Times-Press* published a series titled "Romance of Akron," highlighting the history of the city and surrounding area. An article about Franklin Township featuring its centennial history was part of this series. The article talks about the difficulties of the early settlers, particularly the threat of rattlesnakes, and includes a photograph of the Manchester Inn, which was one of the first structures in the area. It started out as a residence, but evolved into a business hub as a tavern, inn and confectionery. An article from the *Akron Beacon Journal* dated November 25, 1960 states that "old timers" referred to the Old Tavern of Manchester and its "nickel beers." Unfortunately, this original structure was razed in 1960 to allow for expansion of the newer Manchester Tavern.

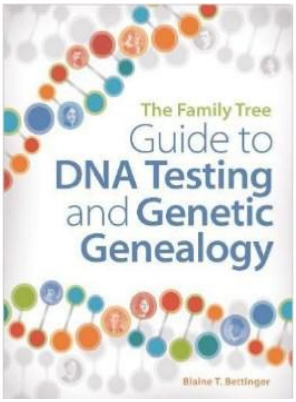
Building identified as the Manchester Tavern about 1948. From the Carl H. Pockrandt Collection, Summit Memory.

Over time, the township changed into a primarily residential area, and like many of the original Summit County townships, it has evolved into incorporated communities. Today's City of New Franklin is comprised of much of the original township, including the localities centered around Manchester and Portage Lakes. This new city was incorporated in March 2006.

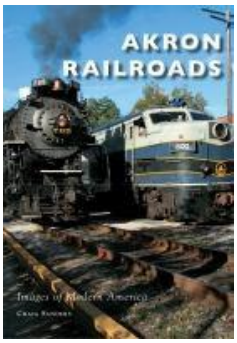
FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP

New Books

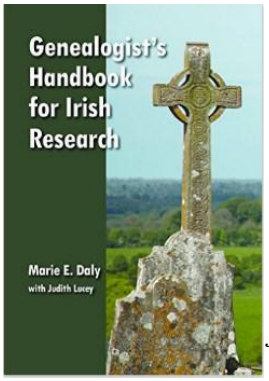
For more new books, see our New Books page on the Special Collections website.



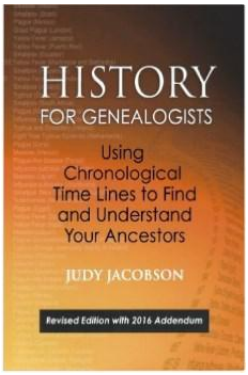
Are you considering DNA testing or want a better understanding of your results? Blaine Bettinger is recognized in the genealogy community as an expert in DNA. His book *The Family Tree Guide to DNA Testing and Genetic Genealogy* can offer insight into testing companies, ethnicity estimates, haplogroups, and much more.



The sound of whistles and rattling tracks is still a fixture in our city as trains continue to rumble through. Craig Sanders' *Akron Railroads* (Images of America Series) discusses the rise, decline, and current state of the local railroad system in the context of historical photos.



Irish genealogical records are becoming increasingly available online. Taking time to understand them, as well as considering offline records and historical background are the keys to making your family tree stronger. Check out Marie E. Daly's *Genealogist's Handbook for Irish Research* for helpful guidance.



Successful genealogy research is set against a solid knowledge of history. In *History for Genealogists*, Judy Jacobson discusses how and why to create historical timelines for our families and covers major historic events such as military conflicts, economic conditions, and epidemics that affected their lives.

Summit County OGS Events

For more information, see http://summitogs.org.

WPA - Works Projects Administration
Presented by Debbie Abbott
Saturday, April 15
1:30-3:30 pm
Main Library

Find A Grave
Presented by Cheri Goldner
Saturday, May 20
1:30-3:30 pm
Main Library

Cemetery Invasion
Led by Kelly McKnight
Saturday, June 17
Time and location to be determined. Check the Summit County OGS website above for further details.

Save the Date for "Discovering Your Military Ancestors" on August 5

Military records can hold valuable genealogical data and tell a compelling story of an ancestor's service. If you're researching family members who served in the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, World War I or World War II, you won't want to miss "Discovering Your Military Ancestors" on Saturday, August 5. Presenters Eric Johnson and Michael Strauss will deliver lectures on historical background, records, and research techniques for these major conflicts.

The program will be held 9:30 am–4 pm in the Main Library Auditorium. Watch for details on our Classes and Events web page and in the next issue of *Past Pursuits*. Registrations are currently being taken. Please call us at 330-643-9030 or email us at speccollections@akronlibrary.org to register.

Special Collections Main Library Class Schedule

The Special Collections Division offers several recurring genealogy classes to help you with your family research. All classes are free of charge and open to the general public. **Registration is required for all classes held at Main Library. Please register by calling us at 330-643-9030 or emailing us at speccollections@akronlibrary.org.**

Using Ancestry in Your Genealogy Research
With more than 10,000 databases and billions of images, Ancestry is the premier online genealogy resource—and it's available to you for free within any ASCPL location. This class will introduce you to the many features of Ancestry Library Edition and show you how to do efficient and effective searches. When possible, time for practice searching is also provided. Because this class will use electronic resources, basic computer skills are recommended.
Saturday, May 6, 10:30 am-12:30 pm, Computer Lab 2

Researching Your Immigrant Ancestors Before 1820
Tracing ancestors before 1820 can be extremely difficult due to a lack of documentation and limited accessibility of surviving records. Focusing on European immigrants to the eastern seaboard, this class is an overview of strategies and sources commonly used in researching early immigrants. Please note: This class is geared toward genealogists with intermediate research skills.
Saturday, June 3, 10:30 am-12:30 pm, Computer Lab 2

We would like to thank the following for their generous donations:

Alan K. Barden for 36 local music vinyl records.

William Beck for oversize black and white photo of the Akron jazz band The Five Thrillers.

Cuyahoga Portage Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution for *45th Regiment of Virginia Militia: Stafford County, Virginia, 1781-1856* and *Men of Mark: Officials of Stafford County, Virginia, 1664-1991* in appreciation for the work of Barbara Griffith.

Raymond De Mattia for manuscripts, compositions, sheet music, and related documents of Pat Pace and other unidentified musicians.

David McCann for photocopy of the oral history of William H. Ayres, former member of Congress from Ohio, for the New York Times Oral History Program.

Ohio Society Dames of the Court of Honor for *People and Places of Downtown Martin* by Virginia Vaughn in memory of Catherine Elizabeth Ebbert Macey and Catherine Elizabeth Macey.

James Perrine for photographs and documents pertaining to Akron Reformed Church, later East Market Street United Church of Christ.

George K. Foltz was a downtown merchant for over sixty years. He was Akron's "oldest jeweler and optician" when he died in 1934 at age 84. This decorative ad appeared on the front page of the Akron City Times*, April 17, 1889.*

The Akron-Summit County Public Library
Special Collections Division
is located on the third floor
of the Main Library.

Special Collections
Akron-Summit County Public Library
60 S. High St.
Akron, Ohio 44326

330-643-9030

email:
speccollections@akronlibrary.org

website:
www.akronlibrary.org/locations/main-library/special-collections

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